

## Matthew 4 – The Dark Side of Christmas

### **Matthew 2:13-23**

***Fallen Condition Focus (FCF):*** If we ignore the darker aspects of the Christmas story, Christ will not be as precious to us.

### **Out of Egypt I called my son**

**Hosea 11:1-4** When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. <sup>2</sup>The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols. <sup>3</sup>Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them. <sup>4</sup>I led them with cords of kindness, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them.

- Just like Israel, Jesus depended on God's provision for safety (out of Egypt)

### **A voice was heard in Ramah**

**Jeremiah 31:15-17** Thus says the LORD: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more." <sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD: "Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. <sup>17</sup> There is hope for your future, declares the LORD, and your children shall come back to their own country.

- Jesus came to establish the new covenant for us

### **He shall be called a Nazarene**

- Not an actual Old Testament quote

**Psalms 22:6-7** But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. <sup>7</sup> All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

**Isaiah 53:1-4** Who has believed what they heard from us?<sup>1</sup> And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup> For he [Messiah] grew up before him [God] like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected<sup>1</sup> by men; a man of sorrows,<sup>2</sup> and acquainted with<sup>3</sup> grief;<sup>4</sup> and as one from whom men hide their faces<sup>5</sup> he was despised, and we esteemed him not. <sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

- Throughout his life Jesus was rejected and mocked by those who hated him
- The rejection of the world pales in comparison to the rejection experienced by Jesus on the cross